

GRASSHOPPERS

IN THE PARK

GRASSHOPPERS IN THE PARK LTD. COMMUNITY NURSERY SCHOOL
 St Thomas' Church, 37 Clapton Common, London E5 9AA
 Tel: 020 8806 8440 Ofsted Registration no: EY288287/3

Application form

Please complete and return to a member of staff or ginny.schiller@virgin.net

Name of child			
Sex		Date of birth	
Name of parent			
Address			
Contact numbers			
Email			
Please list any particular requirements or illnesses we should know about.			
Does your child sleep during the day?			
Is your child in nappies/using a potty, etc?			
How many days interest you? With or without a parent day?			
When ideally would you like your child to start?			
Please tick to show that you have read and understood the following:			
Fees are payable in advance at the beginning of each month:			<input type="checkbox"/>
I agree to abide by all the nursery's policies and procedures: (full copies will be provided on joining)			<input type="checkbox"/>
Signed:			
Date:			

"We aim to provide affordable childcare in a loving and homely environment; one in which our children can learn through play, and in which they are given the chance to develop their own individual talents in an atmosphere free of prejudice."

Who Are We?

Grasshoppers is an OFSTED registered full day care nursery managed by parents, for children from 2 through to 5 years old. Parents have the option to work with the children, alongside trained members of staff, one day weekly, as play-workers. We strongly believe parental involvement enriches the nursery experience. Grasshoppers is a supportive and lively place where you will get to know all your child's friends and can be involved in how they spend their time.

Opening times and vacancies

The nursery is open from Monday to Friday between 8.30am and 6pm. We offer a range of places from a minimum of two full days or three short days (9.30 – 3.30), to 5 days full-time. The fee structure is flexible, offering a range of part time options, and various discounts are available.

Applications are treated on a first-come first-served basis. Please fill out a form and we will contact you to discuss your requirements, arrange a visit to the nursery and let you know when a place will be available. If you would like to discuss joining Grasshoppers, please contact Ginny on ginny.schiller@virgin.net or call on 07970 517667.

A Parent-Run Nursery

At Grasshoppers you will find the involvement of parents is much greater than at most nurseries. Grasshoppers gives you a unique opportunity to be directly involved in decisions about all aspects of its management - everything from gardening and organising special events to preparing the accounts and fundraising is handled by the parents. Everyone is asked to take on a specific role according to their particular skills, and discounts on fees are offered to reflect the amount of time parents commit. There is a monthly meeting for all parents and staff to discuss how they feel things are going and make decisions on how improvements can be made.

If you have any queries about the organisational side of Grasshoppers please email Jonathan at grasshoppersinfo@googlemail.com.

The Daily Routine

At 10.00am when all the children have arrived we start with Circle Time where everyone comes together to talk, sing and read stories. Activities such as art, craft, cooking, music, yoga, dance, gym, gardening etc take place in the morning with a healthy snack around 10.30am. The daily outing (to Springfield Park or another excursion) follows and the children are back around 12.30 for lunch.

After lunch the sleepers have a nap and the older children go outside or into our large basement area for free play and activities suitable for their age group. Everyone is awake by 4pm when there is another snack, followed by free play until they are collected. Art and craft activities are always available.

Food and Drink

Our trained nutritionist Stefania lovingly plans and cooks all the children's meals in our kitchen on site. There is a strong emphasis on good quality organic food, locally produced whenever possible, and all meals and snacks are vegetarian. The children really enjoy eating their lunch together and all specific food requirements or allergies can be catered for. Healthy snacks are provided in the morning and afternoon which always include fresh fruit.

Outings

Outings take place most days – trips to local parks and playgrounds are the most common. We strongly believe in the benefits of the children letting off steam as often as possible. The adults on duty that day walk with the children, holding hands. The children also use local facilities, such as the library and, from time to time, go further afield – recent trips have included Discover Children's Story Centre, London Zoo, Hackney City Farm, the Museum of Childhood, Kew Garden and the Science Museum. Parents are invited to come along if they can.

Outreach

Every Friday between 10am and 12am the Nursery holds an Outreach session to which all families in the local community are invited. The event is publicised locally and children are free to come and explore the nursery and participate in any of the events that take place. These include arts and crafts, and a very popular music session with our visiting multi-instrumentalist, Jorge the Music Man. In this fun and exciting session children can sing along, dance, experience a variety of musical instruments and even learn to conduct! Although the Outreach session is much busier than a normal day, it can give you a sense of what the nursery is like.

If you have any queries about the day-to-day running, please feel free to drop in and speak to Karima, our Nursery Co-ordinator, or contact her at Grasshoppers on 020 8806 8440 or grasshoppers-ltd@tiscali.co.uk.

FEES

Grasshoppers is a parent-run nursery. We keep the quality of our childcare high and the costs low through parental involvement. The fees below assume one parent takes on a small role in running the nursery and attends the monthly meetings.

Monthly fees for parents involved in managing the nursery (1-2 hours per week)

	Long day (8.30 – 6.00)	Short day (9.30 – 3.30)
2 days	£396 (£45.70 per day)	Not available
3 days	£560 (£43.10 p/d)	£428 (£32.95 p/d)
4 days	£719 (£41.50 p/d)	£550 (£31.75 p/d)
5 days	£830 (£38.30 p/d) – includes £50 reduction for full time	£672 (£31.00 p/d)

NB: Parent days are only available if your child comes to the nursery for three long days or more. Do **not** include parent days when costing the number of days your child attends.

We are very keen that parents do involve themselves in the running of the nursery and take an active interest in its future. However, we fully understand that some people are unable to come to the meetings and take on a role. For those parents we simply ask that they pay an extra £40 per month.

Discounts

- Parents taking on a more time-consuming role in the management of the nursery receive a discount of £40 per month.
- Working a 'parent day' alongside the nursery staff: you don't pay for your child to attend on your parent day and it entitles you to a discount of £120 on your monthly fees. Please note that you will be required to have a CRB check. Parent days are from 10.00am – 6.00pm.
- Children who are NEF eligible (all 3 and 4 year olds) receive a discount of £178 per month for three or more days, or £154 per month if only coming for two days per week.
- Households earning under £25,000 a year receive a 10% discount. Proof of earnings will be required.

To find out more information, discuss joining and what the fee structure would mean for you, please get in touch with Ginny, the new parent contact (ginny.schiller@virgin.net or 07970 517667). For any other finance-related queries, please email Marianne at mariannesmink@gmail.com.